

REMARKS

Claims 11, 15, 17, 19 and 20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 11, 15, 17 and 20 are amended, and claims 1-10, 12-14, 16 and 18 are canceled, without prejudice to, or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Support for amendment to claim 11 can be found at least at the subject matter of canceled claims 12-14. Claims 15, 17 and 20 are amended for form. Thus, no new matter is added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claim 20 is allowed and that claim 14-19 include allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, claim 11 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 14, and intervening claims 12 and 13. Thus, claim 11, and the claims depending therefrom, are also allowable.

II. The §103(a) Rejection is Moot

The Office Action rejects claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,784,601 to Kai in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/025883 to Yajima. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, as discussed above, claim 11 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 14 and intervening claims 12 and 13. Thus, independent claim 11 is allowable over Yajima and Kai for at least the reasons discussed in the Office Action with respect to claim 14. Further, claims 12 and 13, which depend from claim 11, are also allowable over Kai and Yajima for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 11, as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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